

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A bus station for use in a bus communication system, comprising:

a first communication port and a second communication port,

said bus station being arranged to operate in a first mode upon detection of the presence of a host station coupled to said second port, and to operate in a second mode upon detection of the absence of a host station coupled to said second port, said bus station being arranged in said first mode of operation to pass communication between said host station coupled to said second port and a first device station coupled to said first port,

said bus station further being arranged to operate as an alternate host station in a second mode of operation upon detection of the absence of the host station coupled to said second port, said bus station arranged in said second mode of operation, by communication to communicate with said first device station coupled to said first port according to a communication protocol wherein said bus station initiates communications, and to communicate with the first device station coupled to said first port on behalf of a further device station coupled to said second port, said communication according to a communication protocol wherein said bus station initiates communications and wherein the further device station appears as a host station to the first device station and performs operations, including communications, therewith.

2. (Original) A bus station according to claim 1 wherein said bus station is arranged to operate as a USB transceiver in said first mode of operation and to operate as a USB host in said second mode of operation.

3. (Previously Presented) A bus station according to claim 1 wherein said bus station further comprises transceiver circuitry coupled to said first and second port for passing communication between said host station coupled to said second port and said first device station in said first mode of operation.

4. (Currently Amended) A bus station for use in a bus system; comprising:
a device controller coupled to a communication port, the bus station being arranged to operate as a device station, said bus station further being arranged to operate under control of system software, ~~comprising including~~ an operating system and host station driver software, the host driver software being arranged to communicate with a host controller and to pass information to and from the operating system, ~~wherein~~ said system software further ~~comprises including~~ host emulation software being arranged to emulate the presence of a host controller towards the host station driver software and the presence of device station driver software towards the device controller, further being arranged to translate communication from the host station driver software to the device controller and vice versa.

5. (Currently Amended) A bus communication system comprising:
a first bus station having a device communication port, and
a second bus station having a first communication port and a second communication port, said second bus station being arranged to operate in a first mode upon detection of the presence of a host station coupled to said second port and to operate in a second mode upon detection of the absence of a host station coupled to said second port;
wherein said first station comprises a device controller coupled to said device communication port and being arranged to operate under control of system software, ~~comprising having an~~ operating system and host station driver software being arranged to communicate with a host controller and to pass information to ~~an~~ and from the operating system, wherein said system software further comprises host emulation software being arranged to emulate the presence of a host controller towards the host station driver software and the

presence of a host controller towards the device controller, further being arranged to translate communications from the host station driver software to the device controller and vice versa.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4, wherein the communication port is a USB communication port.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the device communication port, the first communication port, and the second communication port are USB communication ports.

9. (Previously Presented) A bus system according to claim 5, wherein the second bus station further includes transceiver circuitry coupled to said first and second communication ports for passing communications between said host station coupled to said second port and said first bus station in said first mode of operation.

10. (Previously Presented) A bus station according to claim 1, wherein the bus station is further arranged to operate in the first mode upon detecting a host station coupled to the first communication port and to pass communications between the host station coupled to the first communication port and a device station coupled to the second communication port in the first mode of operation.

11. (Previously Presented) A bus station according to claim 1, wherein the further device station coupled to the second communication port includes a device controller and the further device station is arranged to operate under control of host emulation software.

12. (Previously Presented) A bus station according to claim 11, wherein, in the second mode of operation, the host emulation software emulates the presence of host station driver software to the first device station and the host emulation software emulates the presence of device station driver software to the device controller of the further device station.

13. (Previously Presented) A bus station according to claim 11, wherein, in the second mode of operation, the host emulation software translates communication between the device controller of the further device station and the first device station coupled to the first communication port.